

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **June 17, 2010**

**Budget** – you have the information.

**Tragic Fire** – Parks has had Yesler Community Center serving as a mourning site for victims and family and friends of the victims of the fire in Fremont, and we will continue to keep it open around the clock for that purpose through Friday, June 18.

**John Braden's Retirement** – John has been with the City off and on since September of 1979. He was with the City's Dept of Community Development as a Sr. Planning & Development Specialist, Economic Development Program Manager, Manager of Development Projects, and Director of Economic Development. In 1991 he moved to the Aquarium, leaving for a few years to be the Executive Director of Seattle Emergency Housing Service and then returning to the Aquarium in May 1998 as the Supervising Planning and Development Specialist. He became Deputy Director of the Aquarium in 2002, and Director in 2005 when Bill Arntz retired.

The Seattle Aquarium Society will celebrate his retirement on Wednesday, June 23 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Aquarium.

**Arboretum Foundation Celebrates 75th Anniversary!**-The Arboretum Foundation was founded in 1935, one year after the Washington Park Arboretum was officially established. This year marks the 75th year the Foundation has provided vital support to Seattle's beloved Arboretum. Help us celebrate our anniversary by volunteering at the Arboretum, attending a plant sale or event, making a donation, or becoming a member. Arboretum Foundation members enjoy world-class publications and other special benefits, including preview access to plant sales, discounts at the Arboretum Shop, and more. On **Friday, June 11, at 5:30 p.m.**, in conjunction with our Annual Meeting, the Foundation

will host a party to celebrate this milestone year. All Foundation members are welcome!

**The Japanese Garden Celebrated 50 Years last Sunday!**- This three-and-a-half acre formal garden, located in the Washington Park Arboretum, was designed and constructed under the supervision of world-renowned Japanese garden designer Juki Iida in 1960. Since then it has won the hearts of locals who appreciate its artfully-placed trees, shrubs, flowers, stones, lanterns, ponds, paths and bridges that create a harmonious balance of northwest and Japanese garden design.

**COLA Update.** We continue to get a steady stream of complaints about violations of leash and scoop laws. While existing signs notify dog owners about the existence of these laws, they do not promote understanding of how dog owners and dogs benefit from compliance and the for these laws in terms of public health and safety and wildlife habitat. As part of the signage inventory and review underway, Parks will consider how best to convey this information to boost leash and scoop law compliance. Currently of the 11 OLAs, four have agreements from before 2006, under the COLA master agreement. There is also a separate agreement with Magnuson Off Leash Group signed in 2008. None of the others has an agreement. We are working with staff to adapt the standard volunteer agreement to reflect special conditions that OLAs present. We will also update the COLA master agreement, as conditions have changed greatly from the pilot stage for the program.

**Delridge Event, Refresh Southwest Clean & Green Seattle** - On Saturday, June 5, 2010, more than 900 people celebrated community. The Delridge Neighborhood Development Association, NUCOR Steel, Sustainable West Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities, and Parks participated. The Parks team, the Department of Corrections crew, and neighborhood volunteers removed more than two tons of debris.

**Garfield Playfield Celebration** - The community celebrated the renovation of Field #1 at Garfield Playfield last Saturday morning. This

project came about through a public/private partnership that honored the Negro League that once played on the field. Improvements include replacement of the sand/silt infield with a synthetic turf infield and synthetic pitcher's mound, and replacement of the existing clam shell backstop with 30 foot high upright backstop and wing fence fabric and netting. The field is now available for year-round play.

Generous donors include Ohno Construction, Field Turf, the Seattle Mariners, and other donors. They joined other field supporters, including Seattle University baseball coach Donny Herald, Seattle University athletic director William Hogan, Garfield High School Principal Ted Howard, and Dave Mann, who began his career playing with the Detroit Stars of the National Negro League and ended his career with the Seattle Rainiers.

King County Executive Dow Constantine threw the first "official pitch" to Yosh Ohno of Ohno Construction, and the community declared the field open for play.

**Peak Season Maintenance** – We are working to present to the Council an overall overview of our peak season operations. We are developing a report that touches on issues such as the difference between off-season and peak season, the evolution from a 5-day to a 7-day work week, and Pro Parks Levy-funded evening scheduling.

### **Update on Park Road Programs and Closures -** **Volunteer Park**

Several parents have commented that they are enjoying use of the lower road. A Parks staff person mentioned that they had heard SAAM is concerned about patron parking, we have not heard from them directly. Last week on the free First Thursday, a sunny afternoon, there was parking readily available.

### **Arboretum Road**

The use of the north gate for access with no through traffic appears to be working well.

## **Carkeek Park**

The walking program has been modified from a road closure to a promotion of the Heaven and Earth art exhibit. This exhibit brought many people to the park last summer, and as it is scattered throughout the park, it promotes walking. The configuration of the park made the closure confusing and challenging for many visitors.

## **Seward Park**

The weekday closure has had no problems as there is ample parking at the entry to the park, and the hours are very limited.

## **Bicycle Sunday**

This program continues with a weekly schedule similar to last year, again excepting major holidays and events.

## **SDOT Summer Streets**

Parks' involvement with this SDOT program continued with an Alki Beach event on May 23.

**Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** – The plan was developed during Tim Gallagher's tenure. We will revise it after the budget process to make sure that future work on it reflects the reality of our budget limitations.

**Thomas C. Wales Park** - Here is a brief update on several aspects of the park development and public comment.

- One neighbor objects to an adjacent fence; Parks and the Mayor have responded to her that the fence will remain. This neighbor has requested a “management audit” of the project, so senior Parks staff met at the site on Wednesday. They will review and make recommendations to me on the design, construction, and public process.
- Don Harper of the Levy Oversight Committee and the Queen Anne Community Council has told project manager Patrick Donohue that the QACC will send a letter of support for the project as designed and as reviewed in the public process.

- Construction at the site continues and is about 15%, and we anticipate completion in late summer 2010.

**Golf RFP Update** - The golf RFP evaluation team has reviewed eight proposals from nationally recognized operators. The team will make its final recommendation to me in the next few days. This interdepartmental team included representatives from the Council, the Golf Steering Committee, the Budget Office, and Parks. This effort is on track to have a new operating agreement in place at the beginning of 2011.

**Maintenance at Westlake Park** - The electrical components at Westlake:

Electrical components: There are only three pole lights that Parks maintains on the west side of the park (in front of See's Candies); each pole has two fixtures. The six globes will be replaced by the end of the week. City Light maintains the perimeter fixtures along 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Pine St.

LED ground lights: There are five up light ground tree lights; three are working. We have an order in for replacement ballasts; the material to repair this lighting is not readily available and very costly. Our hope is to have this repaired by the end of the month.

Airport landing lights: There are seven landing lights-one light is out and we are having trouble finding a replacement. These fixtures also are not readily available and extremely costly. We are working with a lighting Rep to locate a replacement.

The fountain and tree receptacles are functioning properly at this time.

**Reservoir Update** - The first phase project of the park work at **Beacon Reservoir** and Jefferson Park is over 80% complete. The newly expanded Jefferson Park will include new open lawn areas, two tennis courts, a play area, walkways, and viewpoints. Additional work,

presently in design, will complete the “Beacon Mountain” play feature and spray area, a skatepark, and synthetic turf installation and lighting on Jefferson Playfield over the next two years. We just received bids for construction of the **Myrtle Reservoir** project, and the notice to proceed will be issued to the contractor later this week. This project will be completed by year-end. Schematic designs have been prepared for the **West Seattle** and **Maple Leaf Reservoir** projects based on community input on various alternatives that were outlined earlier this year. Additional community meetings have been scheduled for June 16 and 26, respectively, to review the proposed plans. West Seattle will be built in 2011-12, Maple Leaf in 2012-13.

**Belltown Community Center** - We are renewing our efforts to create a new small community center in Belltown. This summer we will assess the availability of commercial space that can be leased for a meeting room and ancillary spaces. An expanded Project Advisory Team will be convened and review this with Parks staff in the August-September timeframe.

**Synthetic Turf Testing** - This week we will receive the final report on stormwater runoff from the two new synthetic turf installations at Lower Woodland Park Playfield. The results from testing last winter indicate reduced levels of pollutants from previous tests, due to the conversion of these fields from sand-silt surfaces. We also will receive the results of wipe testing from field #2 at Genesee Park Playfield, where the older synthetic turf field was found to have a lead content in both green fibers and markings. This field surface is scheduled for replacement this summer. New field surfaces are essentially lead-free.

Maple Leaf –  
Myrtle -

**Belltown Community Center Update** -

## **Update on synthetic turf testing -**